SOC 1330, Remaking the City

Spring 2014, MW 8:30-9:50

Dr. John Logan (John\_Logan@brown.edu)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

This course will introduce sociological perspectives on processes of urban change. Cities are being reshaped by immigration, economic restructuring, and disasters. We will review these changes from several perspectives, including the patterns and causes of change, the role of politics and public policy, and how different groups of people (by class, race, and national origin) manage under the new conditions. We will especially emphasize the politics of development at the local level (who decides the future of places, and for whose benefit), the importance of neighborhoods in people’s lives (and the effects of living in the wrong one), and racial and ethnic change in the modern metropolis.

**Course readings**. Most readings are available through the course webpage on Canvas (https://canvas.brown.edu). One book should be purchased from the bookstore:

John Logan and Harvey Molotch, *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*.

The course grade will be based on the following work:

1. **Attendance and participation**. I expect you to attend regularly, and I will check attendance periodically. Every student will select one of the required readings, make a short oral presentation and provide a 1-2 page summary of the reading to distribute to the class. (Select a reading marked with an \* on the course outline.) 20% of your grade will be based on my evaluation of your participation in the class.

2. **Essays**. There will be two essay assignments based on the readings. Each essay should be 6-8 double-spaced pages, and each one will count 25% of your course grade.

3. **Term project**. You must also do a research project on a small or medium-size city in the U.S. (population 65,000+), focusing on the question of how the current recession, housing bubble and foreclosure crisis – combined with the longer term processes of economic and population change – are affecting that city. We will introduce you to sources of data and maps that can be easily downloaded from the web. You will also have to do original research using newspapers, interviews, or other resources about the particular city. The term paper from this project will count 30% of your course grade.

**Schedule of topics and readings:**

**1/22 Introduction**

**What is at stake in cities?**

**1/27** John Logan. Unnatural Disaster: Social Impacts and Policy Choices after Katrina. In Harry W. Richardson, Peter Gordon, and James E. Moore (editors), *Natural Disaster Analysis After Hurricane Katrina: Risk Assessment, Economic Impacts and Social Implications*.

\*M. Nelson, R. Ehrenfeucht and S. Laska. 2007. “Planning, Plans, and People: Professional Expertise, Local Knowledge, and Governmental Action in Post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans.” Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research 9 (3): 23-53.

**1/29** John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes* Ch. 1.

\*Elena Vesselinov and Andrew A. Beveridge. 2011. “Avenue to Wealth or Road to Financial Ruin? Home Ownership and Racial Distribution of Mortgage Foreclosures.” In Christopher Niedt and Marc Silver (eds.) Forging *a New Housing Policy: Opportunity in the Wake of Crisis.* Hempstead NY: National Center for Suburban Studies, Hofstra University, pp. 45-55.

**The economy and culture of underclass neighborhoods.**

**2/3 \***William Wilson. *The Truly Disadvantaged.* Ch. 2: "Social Change and Social Dislocations in the Inner City"

**2/5** Elijah Anderson. *Streetwise*. Ch. 4: “Sex Codes and Family Life among Northton’s Youth”

 \*Martin Sanchez Jankowski. *Islands in the Street*. Ch. 6: “The Gang and the Community”

**Neighborhoods: separate and unequal**

##### 2/10 John R. Logan. “Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America” US2010 project report. http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report0727.pdf

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\*John R. Logan and Deirdre Oakley. 2012. “Schools Matter: Segregation, Unequal Educational Opportunities, and the Achievement Gap in the Boston Region” Pp. 103-123 in William Tate (editor), *Research on* *Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities: Toward Civic Responsibility*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

**2/12** South, Scott and Kyle Crowder. 1999. “Neighborhood Effects on Family Formation: Concentrated Poverty and Beyond” *American Sociological Review*.

 \*Scott South and Kyle Crowder, “Escaping Distressed Communities: Individual, Community, and Metropolitan Influences” *American Journal of Sociology*.

**Race and the labor market (no class on 2/17)**

**2/19** Reynolds Farley, Sheldon Danziger, and Harry Holzer. *Detroit Divided*. \*Ch. 3: “Detroit’s Labor Market since 1940” Ch. 4: “The Employers’ Perspective”

**2/24 \***John Kasarda. "Urban Industrial Transition and the Underclass." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

Norman Fainstein. "The Underclass/Mismatch Hypothesis as an Explanation for Black Economic Deprivation" *Politics and Society* (1986/87).

**2/26 No readings. This class meeting will be devoted to review of potential source materials for your term project. Submit one-page statement identifying the city you intend to study and what you think is interesting about it (through CANVAS).**

***No class on 3/3and 3/5***

**Comparisons with the historical immigrant experience in cities**

**3/10** Thomas Kessner, *Golden Door.*  Chapter 2: “The Immigrant Context” \*Chapter 3: “Immigrant Occupational Distribution”

**3/12** \*Stanley Lieberson. *A Piece of the Pie*. Chapter 2: “The Initial Conditions”

Stephan Thernstrom, *The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970*. Chapter 9: “The Boston Case and the American Pattern”

**Immigrant minorities in the labor market**

**3/17** Roger Waldinger and Thomas Bailey. 1992. "Reslicing the Big Apple." *Policy Studies Review*.

\*K. Wilson and Alejandro Portes. 1980. "Immigrant Enclaves" *American Journal of Sociology 86: 295-319*.

**3/19** \*Min Zhou. *Chinatown: The Making of an Ethnic Enclave.* Ch. 6: "The Ethnic Labor Force and Its Labor-Market Experience"

John Logan, Richard Alba, and Brian Stults. 2003. “Enclaves and Entrepreneurs: Assessing the Payoff for Immigrants and Minorities” *International Migration Review* 37: 344-88.

***First essay, final version, due 3/21***

***No class on 3/24 and 3/26 (Spring Recess)***

**Growth politics and divisions among neighborhoods**

**3/31** John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes* Ch. 2: “Places as Commodities” \*Ch. 4: “Homes: Exchange and Sentiment in the Neighborhood”

**4/2** John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes* Ch. 3: “The City as a Growth Machine”

\*Clarence Stone. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988* Ch. 8: Policy Innovation and Regime Practice: An Atlanta Overview”

**The purposes of urban policy**

**4/7** John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*, Ch. 5.

\*Bernard Frieden and Lynne Sagalyn. *Downtown, Inc. How America Rebuilds Cities.* Ch. 8: “Getting and Spending”

**4/9** Todd Swanstrom. *The Crisis of Growth Politics*. Ch. 8: “The Politics of Community Development”

\*Paul Peterson. *City Limits*. Ch. 3: “The Three Policy Arenas”

**Renewing neighborhoods and urban redevelopment**

**4/14** Herbert Gans. *The Urban Villagers*. Ch. 13: “Redevelopment of the West End”

\*Jonathan Rieder. *Canarsie: The Jews and Italians of Brooklyn against Liberalism.* Ch. 3: “Vulnerable Places”

**4/16** Arlene Davila. *Barrio Dreams*. Ch. 3: “Empowered Culture: The Empowerment Zone and the Selling of El Barrio”

\*Gordana Rabrenovic. *Community Builders: A Tale of Neighborhood Mobilization in Two Cities* Ch. 8: “Hamilton Hill: A Low-Income Neighborhood Struggling for Survival”

**4/21** Bernard Frieden and Lynne Sagalyn. *Downtown, Inc. How America Rebuilds Cities.* Ch. 7: “Deal Making”

\*Gerald Suttles, *The Man-Made City*. Ch. 5: “The Big Project and the Politics of Urgency”

**Making a difference: grounds for optimism, limits of progressive reform**

**4/23** Pierre Clavel and Nancy Kleniewski. "Space for Progressive Local Policy: Examples from the US and UK." Ch. 8 in Logan and Swanstrom, *Beyond the City Limits*.

\*Gregory Squires. *From Redlining to Reinvestment* Ch. 1: “An Emerging Social Movement”.

**4/28** John Mollenkopf. *The Contested City*. Ch. 5: “Consequences of the Neighborhood Revolt against Renewal”

\*Stella Capek and John Gilderbloom. *Community versus Commodity*. Ch. 5: “Progressives in Office”

***Term paper (initial outline and summary of argument) due 4/28.***

**Impacts of globalization**

**4/30 \***John Logan and Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Ch. 7: “The Dependent Future”

Saskia Sassen. *The Global City*. Ch. 10: “A New Urban Regime?”

**5/5** Kevin Fox Gotham. 2006. “The Secondary Circuit of Capital Reconsidered: Globalization and the U.S. Real Estate Sector” *American Journal of Sociology* 112: 231-75.

**\***Michael Harloe and Susan Fainstein. "Conclusion: The Divided Cities."

***Second essay due 5/11.***

***Term paper due 5/11.***